THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI KANTI SINGH): (a) and (b) The concerned Ministries and Departments have been asked for effective implementation of the provisions of the National Plan for Children 2005 for the sectors pertaining to their respective Ministry in order to achieve the targets. The implementation would be monitored from time to time as envisaged in the Plan.

(c) The States of Karnataka, Assam, Chhattisgarh, Gujarat, Kerala, Chandigarh, Nagaland, Dadra & Nagar Haveli, Tripura, Sikkim and West Bengal have already prepared the State Plan of Action for Children.

(d) The State Governments have been directed to prepare State Plan of Action for Children immediately.

Rural Development Programme of IGNOU

1980. SHRI RUDRA NARAYAN PANY:
SHRI B.J. PANDA.

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Rural Development Programme run by the IGNOU's distant education has become popular with the rural masses;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the details of the backward regions that have been connected by EDUSAT, especially with reference to Orissa and how far these have helped the rural masses of these backward areas to gain knowledge?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI KANTI SINGH): (a) and (b) According to the information furnished by Indira Gandhi National Open University (IGNOU), the Rural Development Programmes run by the University in distance mode is popular with the rural masses. The total enrolment in the various regions of the country at the Post Graduate and the Post Graduate Diploma levels is 1194 and 2240, respectively.

(c) In the State of Orissa, Satellite Interactive Terminals (SITs) supported by EDUSAT, have been commissioned/operationalized at IGNOU Regional Centres at Bhubaneswar and Koraput, and the Study Centres at Rourkela, Ganjam (Berhampur), Cuttack and Kalahandi. The network is further strengthened by co-relating it to the State Government supported network to take education to the backward regions and rural masses.